

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 015014

21

ORIGIN EB-04

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APPROVED BY: EB/OA/AVP:JASILBERSTEIN

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R 232122Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 015014

FOLLWING REPEAT COLOMBO 158 ACTION SECSTATE INFO SECDEF
16JAN

QUOTE

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, MASS, MV

SUBJ: REQUEST BY SRI LANKA AIR FORCE COMMANDER
FOR US FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE

REF COLOMBO 2994 AND 3076

1. IN ROLE OF ADVISOR TO GOVERNMENT OF MALDIVES (GOM) FOR
AVIATION MATTERS, SRI LANKA AIR FORCE (SLAF) COMMANDER, PADDY
MENDIS, HAS COMPLETED PURCHASE OF TWO CONVAIR C-440 AIRCRAFT
FROM A UK FIRM FOR AIR MALDIVES. UK PILOTS HAVE BEEN ENGAGED
TO FERRY PLANES, WITH SLAF CREWS, TO SRI LANKA AT END OF JAN.

2. MENDIS HAS ASKED DATT IF USG COULD PROVIDE USE OF MILITARY
AIRBASES ENROUTE AS WAS DONE IN CASE OF SLAF CONVAIR PURCHASE
IN JUNE 1973. MENDIS STATES US MILITARY FACILITIES ARE DES-
IRED TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE TO HIGH-DENSITY INTERNATIONAL
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AIRPORTS AND TO HAVE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR REPAIRS IF FAILURES

ARE EXPERIENCED ENROUTE. FUEL PURCHASES AND ALL SERVICES WOULD BE PAID FROM FUNDS AVAILABLE TO MENDIS.

3. ROUTE INTENDED WOULD BE HOMESTEAD AFB, PEASE AFB, LAJES (AZORES), ROTA (SPAIN), NAPLES, CRETE, CYPRUS, TEHRAN, KARACHI, COLOMBO. AIRCRAFT ARE UNDER TRINIDAD REGISTRY WITH UK PILOTS, SLAF CREWS, SLAF OPERATIONAL CONTROL, AND GOM OWNERSHIP.

4. WE RECOGNIZE REQUEST IS UNUSUAL BUT IT WOULD PROVIDE MODERATE RESPONSE TO GOM'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING NATIONAL AIRLINE AS WELL AS REINFORCING ALREADY FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WE ENJOY WITH SLAF COMMANDER. AS MENDIS IS IN PROCESS OF MAKING FINAL FLIGHT PLANS NOW, WE SHOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE DEPT'S LETTING US KNOW SOONEST WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE TO RESPOND TO THIS REQUEST.
VAN HOLLEN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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To: MADRID LISBON
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